

EXHIBITIONS AND NOTICES.

March 20th, 1917.

Dr. A. SMITH WOODWARD, F.R.S., Vice-President,
in the Chair.

The SECRETARY read the following report on the Additions made to the Society's Menagerie during the month of February 1917:—

The registered additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of February were 101 in number. Of these 36 were acquired by presentation, 44 were received on deposit, 19 were purchased, and 2 were born in the Gardens.

The number of departures during the same period, by death and removals, was 115.

Amongst the additions special attention may be directed to:—

1 Allamand's Grison (*Grison allamandi*) from Le Quiacea, Bolivia, presented by A. S. Hume on February 10th.

1 European Bison (*Bison bonasus*) ♂, born in the Menagerie on February 22nd.

2 Golden Eagles (*Aquila chrysaëtus*) from Ross-shire, presented by Lady Bignold of Rosque on February 16th.

Mr. R. I. POCOCK, F.R.S., F.Z.S., Curator of Mammals, exhibited a young Lion Cub recently deposited in the Gardens, and also a Galago from German East Africa presented by Commander R. J. N. Watson.

April 3rd, 1917.

Prof. E. W. MACBRIDE, M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S., Vice-President,
in the Chair.

Mr. C. J. GAHAN exhibited a living example of the "Death-Watch" Beetle (*Anobium tessellatum*), and demonstrated its response to sharp taps, such as could be made with the point of a pencil on the table.

Mr. C. DAVIES SHERBORN, F.Z.S., exhibited an autograph of Captain Bligh of 'The Bounty.'

Mr. C. TATE REGAN, M.A., F.Z.S., exhibited a Piraya (*Serrasalmo piraya*) from the Amazon, and gave a short account of the habits of this ferocious fish.

Big-Game shooting in Cooch Behar, Assam, and the Bhutan Duars, India.

Mr. ALFRED EZRA, F.Z.S., gave a lantern exhibition illustrating Big-Game Shooting in Cooch Behar, Assam, and the Bhutan Duars, India, and made the following remarks:—

On account of the heavy grass- and reed-jungle, sometimes well over 20 feet high, so common in these districts, it is impossible to do any shooting on foot. All big-game shooting is done here with the aid of elephants, which are thoroughly trained for the purpose. During the shooting-season the country is generally burnt in patches, and here one follows the method adopted in covert-shooting in England. Two or more guns are sent in with the line of elephants, while some guns are posted forward as "stops," and the patches are beaten up to them. The elephants used for the "stops" are generally very steady and well-trained animals and are most valuable. The shooting arrangements at Cooch Behar are reduced to a science, and the men in charge of the line are so well trained that a tiger can invariably be beaten out to any particular "stop," should the Maharaja wish a special guest to have the first shot. My favourite way of shooting in this country is to go alone on a pad-elephant with an intelligent mahout (driver) who is a good tracker. In this way you go through the thickest parts of the jungle without disturbing the game, and you see the animals in their natural haunts, sleeping, grazing, or wallowing in the muddy streams. Being accustomed to always seeing wild elephants, the animals do not take the slightest notice of your mount, and you are able to get within a few yards of them. At such close quarters the sportsman can pick and choose his head, only shooting something that is worth having as a trophy. The game found in this country consists of tiger, leopard, bear, rhino, buffalo, bison (gaur), sambur, swamp-deer, wild pig, and hog deer.

April 17th, 1917.

Dr. A. SMITH WOODWARD, F.R.S., Vice-President,
in the Chair.

The SECRETARY read the following report on the Additions made to the Society's Menagerie during the month of March 1917:—

The number of registered additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of March was 149. Of these 21 were acquired by presentation, 125 (chiefly small Finches) were received on deposit, 2 by purchase, and 1 was born in the Gardens.

The number of departures during the same period, by death and removals, was 101.

Amongst the additions special attention may be directed to:—

1 White-handed Gibbon (*Hylobates lar*), from Pahang, deposited on March 29th.

1 Bushy-tailed Galago (*Galago crassicaudata*), from Mafia I., East Africa, presented by Commander R. J. N. Watson, R.N., on March 5th.

1 White-toothed Shrew, from Albert, France, new to the Collection, deposited on March 23rd.

Mr. C. DAVIES SHERBORN, F.Z.S., exhibited the piece of hairy skin of a Gorilla, which specimen was torn off the freshly killed beast, and posted to Richard Owen, by P. B. Du Chaillu, from the interior of the Gaboon. The envelope is postmarked "Établissements du Gabon, 1 Sept 1864," and was the precursor of Du Chaillu's long letter of August, 1864, from the Fernand Vaz river on the coast, announcing that six skins were being shipped to London among other specimens. These were registered at the British Museum 1 Dec. 1864.

Mr. D. SETH-SMITH, F.Z.S., Curator of Birds, exhibited a female Japanese Pheasant (*Phasianus versicolor*) which had assumed the very nearly complete plumage of the male. The ovaries were found on dissection to be very atrophied.

A male specimen of the Carolina Duck (*Aw sponsa*) was also shown in which the colour of the soft parts were similar to those of the female. When living, this bird was thought to be a female in male plumage, but on dissection proved to be a male with atrophied testes.

Mr. Seth-Smith also showed some specimens of the trachea of various species of Ducks.

Mr. E. HERON-ALLEN, F.L.S., P.R.M.S., F.Z.S., described the Mussel-fishery and Foraminifera of Esnandes (La Rochelle), and the early work of Alcide d'Orbigny.

A series of slides was exhibited illustrative of the early studies of Alcide d'Orbigny at Esnandes (near La Rochelle), and the Mussel-fisheries established there since the year 1035. The experiments of Prof. W. A. Herdman on the West Coast of England were referred to, and those of Prof. A. Meek at Holy Island on the East Coast. A further series was shown illustrating some of the notable d'Orbignyan species found in the neighbourhood, not recorded from there by d'Orbigny in 1826, but recorded from other localities at that date, and from distant seas between 1839 and 1846. A third series of slides illustrated well-known species from the locality which had been recorded and described by earlier authors, but were not apparently identified by d'Orbigny from the neighbourhood of La Rochelle.

May 1st, 1917.

Dr. A. SMITH WOODWARD, F.R.S., Vice-President,
in the Chair.

The SECRETARY, Dr. P. CHALMERS MITCHELL, F.R.S., announced with the deepest regret that Mr. Henry Peavot, the Society's Librarian and Clerk of Publications, had been killed in action. Mr. Peavot had entered the service of the Society in 1896, and, after passing through various departments, was appointed Assistant Librarian and Clerk of Publications in 1908, and was promoted to the post of Librarian and Clerk of Publications in 1912. In every way he had gained the esteem and regard of the Scientific Fellows of the Society, and was one of the most valuable and competent members of the Society's staff.

The SECRETARY exhibited a coloured sketch of an abnormal Cape Lourie (*Turacus corythaix* Wagl.), kindly sent to him by Mr. E. C. Chubb, F.Z.S., the Curator of the Durban Museum, Natal. The specimen, which was the property of the Durban Museum, was normally coloured on the head and neck, but the rest of the plumage was pale grey or dirty white, with the exception of a portion of the wings, which retained the normal red colour. The example could not be exactly described as an albino, inasmuch as the red colour was known to be due to a pigment, the "Turacin" originally described by Professor Church, and the green colour of the head and neck, unlike that in most species of birds with green feathers, was due also to a green pigment.

A Gynandromorphic Specimen of the Earwig (Forficula auricularia).

Prof. J. P. HILL, F.R.S., F.Z.S., remarked as follows:—

The specimen (a photograph of which was exhibited) attracted attention by reason of the asymmetry of its forceps. The right limb of the latter measured 3·25 mm. in length, and is unmistakably of the male type, being stout and distinctly curved. The left limb measured 2·75 mm., and is just as unmistakably of the female type, being slender and only slightly curved.

Dissection of the specimen revealed the presence of a well-developed testes, containing fully formed sperms, on the *right* side. The left gonad was not observed and was probably either absent or very rudimentary. It is certain that a well-developed ovary was not present on this side.

Dr. A. SMITH WOODWARD, F.R.S., Vice-President, exhibited enlarged models, made by Mr. Frank O. Barlow, of the first lower molar tooth of a large Chimpanzee, Melanesian Man, and Piltown Man (*Eoanthropus dawsoni*). He maintained that the latter tooth was of the megadont human type.

Mr. D. M. S. WATSON, F.Z.S., exhibited and explained by diagrams, models of the teeth of fossil horses.

Professor H. MAXWELL LEFROY, M.A., F.Z.S., described the Silkworms and Silk industry of India, illustrating his account with lantern-slides and specimens of the Silk Moths, Cocoons, and Silk.

May 15th, 1917.

Dr. S. F. HARMER, M.A., F.R.S., Vice-President,
in the Chair.

The SECRETARY read the following Report on the Additions made to the Society's Menagerie during the month of April 1917:—

The registered additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of April were 130 in number. Of these 46 were acquired by presentation, 33 were received on deposit, 48 by purchase, 1 in exchange, and 2 were born in the Gardens.

The number of departures during the same period, by death and removals, was 93.

Amongst the additions special attention may be directed to:—

1 Chimpanzee (*Anthropopithecus troglodytes*) ♀, from West Africa, presented by Lieut.-Comm. J. W. Rainier, R.N., on April 16th.

1 Demidoff's Galago (*Hemigalago demidoffi*) ♂, from Obuassi, Ashanti, presented by Dr. G. H. F. Spurrell on April 5th.

2 Pandas (*Elurus fulgens*) ♂ ♀, from Nepal; purchased on April 12th.

Dr. P. CHALMERS MITCHELL, M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S., Secretary to the Society, showed the behaviour of a large series of Birds and Mammals in the presence of living Serpents, and demonstrated that, except in the case of the higher Monkeys and a few kinds of Birds, there was no trace of instinctive dread of Serpents.

Mr. D. SETH-SMITH, F.Z.S., Curator of Birds, gave a lantern exhibition of Birds now or recently living in the Society's Gardens.

June 5th, 1917.

Dr. S. F. HARMER, M.A., F.R.S., Vice-President,
in the Chair.

Mr. R. I. POCOCK, F.R.S., Curator of Mammals, exhibited on behalf of Messrs. Rowland Ward Ltd. the skins of two Zebras, shot by Mr. David Mackenzie at Gil-Gil in British East Africa, which showed remarkable evanescence of pattern affecting the body, neck, and head and to a less extent the legs. The obliteration of pattern was carried to a much greater extent than in the skin described by Prof. Ridgeway as representing a new variety named *Equus quagga goldfinchi*.

The two specimens were secured from a herd of normally coloured Zebras of the East African race *Equus quagga granti*.

Mr. R. E. HOLDING exhibited and made remarks on a Cirriped (*Coronula diadema*) which occurs in considerable numbers on the Humpbacked Whale (*Megaptera nodosa* Bonn.).

Mr. Holding also exhibited two curiously malformed eggs in which the inner membrane only remained, the shell and yolk being absent.

Mr. D. SETH-SMITH, F.Z.S., Curator of Birds, gave an account of the Poultry Exhibition which the Society is now holding for the second season with a view to the encouragement of poultry-keeping for egg-production. The method of keeping hens on the intensive system was explained, as well as the lines to be followed in the breeding and selection of heavy-laying strains. Mr. Seth-Smith called attention to the value of certain strains of ducks, especially those known as "white runners," for egg-production.